



# U P D A T E

## St. Lucie County

**October 15, 2007**

**A Monthly Update  
of Current Events  
and Happenings  
within St. Lucie**

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office. Direct inquiries to Ja' Net Pentz, Executive Assistant St. Lucie County 2300 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34982 772.462.1453 pentzj@co.st-lucie.fl.us

### **Board of County Commissioners Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled**

- The Board of County Commissioners October Monthly Informal Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 23 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room #3.
- The Board of County Commissioners and the Treasure Coast Education and Research Development Authority will hold a meeting on Thursday, November 8 at 2 p.m. at 2199 Rock Road in the University of Florida Building.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the Annual Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday, November 13 at 9 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.
- The Board of County Commissioners November Monthly Informal Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room #3.

### **Vitolo Family Park Restoration Project Complete**

Nearly 14 acres of coastal wetlands have been restored thanks to a \$124,500 grant from the United States Forest Service and the Florida Division of Forestry. The two-year project targeted the removal of exotic plants, primarily Australian Pines and Brazilian Peppers, in an area known as Vitolo Family Park, located along AIA on South Hutchinson Island. This high-profile project also included hurricane clean-up, wetland creation and native planting, including more than 1,000 salt-tolerant, native vegetation. Additionally, permanent tidal creeks were created to provide a fully functioning, natural wetland-upland community. The restoration site includes nearby coastal wetland areas bordering AIA such as John Brooks Park, Bear Point Sanctuary and Green Turtle Beach. These areas will be monitored for exotic vegetation by the St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District staff for a period of three years using quarterly treatments. Additional funding has been sought from the Indian River Lagoon License Plate Program (snook plate) to plant native vegetation. The project also benefited from the installation of a triple, 24-inch diameter, set of culverts contributed by Florida Department of Transportation, and triple headwalls (for the culverts) contributed by the St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District, the agency that supervised the project. The culverts connect the wetland east and west of AIA, and will increase the hydrological connectivity of the tidal creeks created by the project. Vitolo Family Park is an important mosquito impoundment area that is open to the general public with hiking trails, observation platforms and docks along the Indian River Lagoon. Through the Marine Resources Council and the St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District, Audubon Warden Captain Chop Lege leads weekly environmental education hikes at Vitolo Family Park and Bear Point Sanctuary. For more information about Vitolo Family Park or other impoundment areas that are open to the public for passive recreation visit the St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District at [www.stlucieco.gov/msq](http://www.stlucieco.gov/msq).

### **Tree Give-A-Way**

The St. Lucie Cooperative Extension will hold a Spread the Shade/Plant a Tree, Tree Give-A-Way on Saturday, October 27 from 8 a.m. until noon at 1664 SE Walton Road in Port St. Lucie.

### **Highwaymen Celebration**

The Highwaymen Florida Hall of Fame Celebration Event will be held at the Fort Pierce Community Center on Sunday, November 4 from noon until 4 p.m. For more information, please contact Cultural Affairs at (772) 462-1767.

## **Airport Day**

The St. Lucie County International Airport is hosting Airport Day on Saturday, November 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Airport Administration Building located at 300 Curtis King Road in Fort Pierce. For more information, please call (772) 462-1732.

## **SEAL MUSTER XXII**

Navy UDT-SEAL Museum's Annual Veteran's Day MUSTER XXII Event will be held on November 9 through November 11 at 3300 North A1A, North Hutchinson Island. For more information, please contact the SEAL Museum at (772) 595-5845.

## **St. Lucie County Parks & Recreation Offers Tutoring Lessons**

St. Lucie County's Parks & Recreation Department is offering tutoring lessons every Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the Fort Pierce Community Center. Students 8 - 12 years old can receive one-on-one tutoring in all subjects. Special attention will be focused on subjects that give your child difficulties. Students will have the opportunity to learn in a comfortable, quiet environment with an experienced staff that can provide helpful academic support. The cost is \$40 per month, and registration is required. The Fort Pierce Community Center is located at 600 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce. For more information call the St. Lucie County Parks & Recreation staff at (772) 462-1792.

## **St. Lucie County Parks & Recreation Department Offers After School Programs**

St. Lucie County's Parks & Recreation Department is offering an after-school program for students in kindergarten through fifth grade at the Fort Pierce Community Center. The after-school program, which is available to students in the green zone (north of Midway Road), runs Monday through Friday until 6 p.m., including early dismissal days. The cost is \$40 per week per student. Pre-registration is required. Afternoons will be filled with activities including board games, activities, arts and crafts, sports and more. Students will also receive guided and quiet homework time with support from the Parks & Recreation staff. The Fort Pierce Community Center is located at 600 N. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce. For more information call the St. Lucie County Parks & Recreation staff at (772) 462-1792.

## **Morningside Library and Masonic Lodge Promote Books for Bikes**

Morningside Library, in cooperation with Cornerstone Masonic Lodge No. 386 F&AM, is sponsoring a "Books for Bikes" contest, that started Monday, September 24. Students in first through third grade will have the opportunity to earn raffle tickets to win a bicycle and helmet by reading books from any St. Lucie County Library. When students read 10 books on the list from their grade level, they will receive a raffle ticket. With each five books they read thereafter, they will receive another raffle ticket. The more you read; the better your chances are to win a new bicycle and helmet. The contest takes place September 24 through December 12 with the drawing and ice cream social to be held Saturday, December 15 at the Morningside Library, where one boy's and one girl's bicycle will be given away, along with a safety helmet for the winners. For more information, contact the Morningside Branch Library at (772) 337-5632. The Morningside Branch Library is located at 2410 Morningside Blvd., Port St Lucie.

## **Upcoming Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center**

**Guided Hikes** ~ Every Saturday at 10 a.m. Join an Oxbow naturalist as they lead visitors along a series of trails, discussing the plants and wildlife that live in the different habitats along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. For more information about all Oxbow Eco-Center events call the staff at (772) 785-5833 or visit [www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow](http://www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow).

Joseph E. Smith, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 2 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3  
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